

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 PA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

HEW-06 USIE-00 MMO-04 INRE-00 SMI-01 /034 R

DRAFTED BY CU/EA:JFMC DONALD:JFW

APPROVED BY CU/EA:DIHITCHCOCK

CU/EX/BM:NRUNKLES

----- 118856

O 132139Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 118115

E.O. 11652N/A

TAGS: OEXC, JA

SUBJECT: CULCON: BICENTENNIAL MUSEUM EXHIBITION

REF: STATE 067669 - 1975

FOR DPAO

1. DEPARTMENT HAD AGREED LAST YEAR TO UNDERWRITE AMERICAN
SIDE EXPENSES FOR CULCON "MASTERPIECES" EXHIBITION, TO BE
HELD THIS FALL IN JAPAN IF NO OUTSIDE FUNDS COULD BE FOUND.

2. CU PREPARING TO MAKE GRANT TO JAPAN SOCIETY FOR THIS
PURPOSE BUT DISCOVER THAT LEGAL OBSTACLES PRECLUDE ANY OF
THESE FUNDS BEING USED FOR INSURANCE COSTS OF EXHIBITION.

3. CU FUNDS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED TO SUPPORT EXHIBITION
BASED ON ESTIMATES MADE IN MARCH LAST YEAR BY SHERMAN LEE.
WE HAVE RECENTLY LEARNED THAT TOTAL INSURANCE COSTS HAVE
BEEN GREATLY REDUCED FROM LAST YEAR'S ESTIMATE (FROM DOLS
175,000 TO APPROXIMATELY DOLLARS 70,000). AMERICAN SHARE
NOW BETWEEN DOLS 18,000 AND DOLS 20,000, THUS TOTAL AMOUNT
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NEEDED FOR GRANT TO JAPAN SOCIETY APPROXIMATELY DOLS

30,000. INTERNAL AMERICAN SHIPPING COSTS TO THREE
---- COLLECTION POINTS, APPROX. DOLLARS 9000, WILL ALSO BE
COVERED BY GRANT.

4. IN ORDER NOT TO BE FORCED TO RENEG ON PORTION OF
GRANT, POST IS ASKED TO OBTAIN BUNKA-CHO AGREEMENT TO
UNDERWRITE ENTIRE COST OF INSURANCE, SWITCHING EQUIVALENT
AMERICAN SHARE TO OTHER COST ITEMS SUCH AS TRAVEL AND
MAINTENANCE OF TWO ACCOMPANYING AMERICAN MUSEUM OFFICIALS
AND, IF NECESSARY, NEW YORK - TOKYO SHIPPING COSTS
ETC., UP TO DOLLARS 20,000.

5. SHERMAN LEE'S OFFICE HAS AGREED TO THIS PROCEDURE
AND ALSO AGREES THAT WE APPEAR TO HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE.

6. FYI AND IN CASE BUNKA-CHO SHOULD INQUIRE, PRESENT
VALUATION OF 80 OBJECTS IS APPROXIMATELY 20 MILLION
DOLLARS. SEVERAL MUSEUMS ARE HOLDING OUT FOR THEIR OWN
INSURANCE RATES RATHER THAN BLANKET RATE NEGOTIATED BY
SHERMAN LEE, WHO IS STILL WORKING WITH THESE MUSEUMS TO
ACCEPT LOWER EXHIBITION RATES. METROPOLITAN MOST
DIFFICULT BUT LEE STILL HOPING TO PERSUADE. IF SUCCESSFUL
RATES AND THUS COSTS COULD BE EVEN LOWER.

7. ADVISE SOONEST JAPANESE REACTION. MUST CONCLUDE
GRANT BY MAY 21. ROBINSON

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